

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LILONG 01409 290631Z

ACTION IO-14

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TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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CONFIDENTIAL LILONGWE 1409

CORRECTED COPY ADD TAGS

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM AMBASSADOR STEVENSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MI

SUBJ: MESSAGE OF GREETING TO PRESIDENT H. KAMAZU BANDA

SINCE VISIT OF THEN ASST. SEC. EASUM IN NOVEMBER, 1974, NO SENIOR
USG OFFICIAL HAS VISITED MALAWI ALTHOUGH MANY HAVE VISITED ALL HER
NEIGHBORS. VARIOUS GOM OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN GRUMBLNG ABOUT THIS FACT
FOR OVER A YEAR ALTHOUGH QUIETLY AND POLITELY. ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO
GOM BECAME AWARE FROM DRAFT FLIGHT PLAN THAT FONSEC OWEN AND
YOURSELF MIGHT BE OVERNIGHTING IN BLANTYRE AND THERE WAS
IMMEDIATE TALK OF PUTTING YOU UP IN SPECIAL RESIDENCE INCLUDING PRES.
BANDA'S SANJICA PALACE AND OF
STATE DINNER IN YOUR HONOR. UNDOUBTEDLY BANDA WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT
THIS POSSIBILITY HAS NOT MATERIALIZED.
I THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR RELATIONS, AND I WOULD BE
MOST APPRECIATIVE, IF YOU WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND HIM A MESSAGE
ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: (MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, HIGH COMMISSIONER
SCOTT, IS MAKING A SIMILAR SUGGESTION TO FONSEC OWEN)

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

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PAGE 02 LILONG 01409 290631Z

I DEEPLY REGRET THAT MY TIME SCHEDULE AND THE DEMANDS OF
THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS TO BRING ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF
ALL CITIZENS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE HAVE MADE IT IM-
POSSIBLE FOR ME TO VISIT MALAWI AND CALL ON YOU TO PAY MY RE-
PECTS. YOUR RECORD AS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL LEADERS OF AFRICAN
INDEPENDENCE IS WELL KNOWN TO ME AS IS YOUR STEADFAST POSITION,
WHICH WE SHARE, IN SUPPORT OF NEGOTIATION AND DIALOG, RATHER

THAN VILOENCE, AS THE WAY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM WE FACE TODAY
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. I HOPE ONE DAY I MAY BE ABLE TO VISIT YOUR
FAIR COUNTRY WHOSE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS IS A TRI-
BUTE TO YOUR LEADERSHIP. RESPECTFULLY.

AS YOU MAY KNOW BANDA LIVED IN THE U.S. FOR ABOUT 12 YEARS AND
GRADUATED FROM WILBERFORCE, U. OF CHICAGO AND MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE
HE HAS WARM FEELINGS TOWARD THE U.S. AND MALAWI HAS PROBABLY THE
BEST RECORD OF ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY IN SUPPORTING OUR POSITIONS IN
THE UNGA. ADMITTEDLY BANDA IS A DESPOT WHO WILL NOT TOLERATE THE
SIGHTEST QUESTIONING OF HIS WISDOM OR AUTHORITY, BUT HE IS GENERALLY
LIKED AND
SUPPORTED BY THE VAST MAJORITY OF HIS SUBJECTS. ALSO, RE HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS ALMOST ALL POLITICAL DETAINEES HAVE
BENN RELEASED AS WELL AS JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES.

I MUST CALL ON BANDA ON TUESDAY, AUG. 30, TO TAKE UP A MATTER
OF SOME IMPORTANCE TO OUR NATIONAL INTEREST AND IT WOULD THEREFORE
BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IF I MIGHT BRING HIM YOUR GREETINGS ON
THIS OCCASION. I WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT SEVERAL TIMES IN RECENT MONTHS
HE HAS INDICATED TO ME HIS INTEREST IN YOUR EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT
NEEDED CHANGE IN SOUTHER AFRICA, AND IN YOU PERSONALLY. STEVENSON

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Sent Date: 28-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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